

**Consideration of the dedication of the Meltzer Woods Nature Preserve in Shelby County**

The proposed Nature Preserve is a 59.034 acre property that is in the east central portion of Shelby County, approximately 3.5 miles southeast of the town of Shelbyville. This nature preserve protects an example of high quality mixed mesophytic forest communities, the wetter forest dominated by Beech/Shumard Oak and the drier forest dominated by Beech/Maple. It is located within the Tipton Till Plain Section of the Central Till Plain Natural Region.

This Nature Preserve consists of topography that is characterized by very minor differences in relief but significant enough for distinction between Crosby soils in the upland and Brookston soils in the lower areas. These soils allow a juxtaposition of two contrasting forest types with exceptionally large individuals of several tree species. Lindsey attributed the upland Crosby soils with a total basal area of 125.8 and the total density of 123.2. The lower Brookston soils had a total basal area of 149.1 and a total density of 122.5. These values are comparable to the other highest quality old growth woods remaining in Indiana, including Donaldson's Woods and Wesselman Woods.

The Meltzer family have owned and protected this forest for over 150 years with no cutting of live trees. Lindsey's view was that Meltzer Woods is not surpassed as a museum-piece forest with particularly fine, large individual specimens. Approximately 48 acres of the Meltzer property were never cleared. That old-growth stand was placed in the Indiana's Classified Forest Program in 1928. In 1973, this property was designated a National Natural Landmark. It is the last unprotected old growth forest in Indiana.

This tract is owned and managed by the Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc. Acquisition funding came through the cooperative effort of the Meltzer family, CILTI Land Trust, the Indiana Heritage Trust, and the Bicentennial Nature Trust. The fields within the nature preserve will be planted to forest in the near future.

The Division of Nature Preserves recommends dedication of this site as a State Nature Preserve.

## Meltzer's Woods Nature Preserve

County: Shelby  
Size: 59.034 acres

## Exhibit A

USGS Quad Map: Ray's Crossing  
Ownership: Central Indiana Land Trust, Inc.



map created by R Wilson IDNR Nature Preserves 10.16.2014

0 0.125 0.25 Miles

